

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02164 301223Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 NEAE-00 ACDA-07
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FPC-01
STR-04 /138 W

-----301228Z 050766 /15

P R 301126Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6225

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2164

CINCUSNAVEUR, EUCOM PASS POLADS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS ENRG TS LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN WARNING ON DEVELOPMENT OF ISIS OIL

FIELD: U.S. INTEREST CONFIRMED

REF: TUNIS 2107; TUNIS 2108

1. TUNIS REPRESENTATIVE OF TOAL - EXPLORATION TUNISIE, OPERA-
TOR FOR ISIS OIL FIELD, CONFORMED MARCH 29 THAT GROUP (ALSO IN-
CLUDING AMOCO, SHELL AND AGIP) DEFINITELY HAS DECIDED TO GO
AHEAD WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISIS FIELD. FOLLOWING GROUP'S
DECISION EARLY THIS MONTH, OFFICIAL REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE TO GOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 02164 301223Z

FOR PRODUCTION CONCESSION.

ACTUAL WORK IN PRODUCTION AREA IS SCHEDULED TO GET UNDERWAY EARLY
IN SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR.

2. CONFIRMING U.S. COMMERICAL INTEREST IN AREA (TUNIS 2108),
TOTAL REPRESENTATIVE SAID AMOCO RETAINS FULL ONE-THIRD INTEREST
BOTH IN ISIS AND IN EXPLORATION PERMIT AREA, BUT BECAUSE OF FI-

PANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, MAY BE SEEKING BUYER FOR ITS INTEREST IN PRODUCTION CONCESSION.

3. TOTAL OFFICIAL SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA HAD CALLED IN TOTAL REPRESENTATIVE IN TRIPOLI TO POINT OUT THAT GOL CONSIDERES ISIS FIELD WITHIN LIBYAN JURISDICTION AND THEREFORE DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION ACTIVITY IN TUNISIAN-GRANTED PRODUCTION CONCESSION WOULD BE ILLEGAL. TOTAL OFFICIAL RECALLED THAT LIBYANS HAD OBJECTED TO ISIS EXPLORATION WELLS TWO YEARS AGO, BUT HAD DONE NOTHING FURTHER. LIBYAN OBJECTION THEN HAD BEEN IGNORED AND FRENCH OPERATORS BOTH IN MARIN CENTRE ORIENTALE (TOTAL TUNISIE) AND GULF DE GABES ORIENTALE PERMIT AREA (ELF-AQUITAINE TUNISIA FOR SEPEG) HAD IN FACT DRILLED WELLS FURTHER EAST OF ISIS.

4. NOTING THAT TOTAL HAS 20 PERCENT INTEREST IN GULF DE GABES ORIENTALE BLOCK (40 P/E ELF-AQUITAINE, 20 P/E AGIP), TOTAL OFFICIAL RECALLED THAT ZOHRA I - WELL DRILLED THERE IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR (BY PENROD 70) HAD BEEN DRY AND HE EXPRESSED CERTAINTY THAT NO FURTHER EXPLORATION WELLS WERE CURRENTLY PROGRAMMED FOR THIS PERMIT AREA.

5. DISCUSSING OTHER EXPLORATION ACTIVITY EXPECTED IN TUNISIAN OFFSHORE AREA CLOSE TO DISPUTED BOUNDARY, TOTAL REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT PROSPECTIVE NEW EXPLORATION WELL BY AMERICAN OPERATOR MARATHON WOULD BE IN EASTERN EXTREMITY OF GABES/DJERBA PERMIT AREA AND THUS, HILE NEAR DISPUTED BOUNDARY, WOULD FALL TO SOUTHWEST OF EXPLORATION WELLS PREVIOUSLY DRILLED BY ELF-AQUITAINE TUNISIE IN ADJACENT GULF DE GABES COMPLEMENTAIRE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 02164 301223Z

PERMIT AREA.
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INVESTMENT, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, OIL FIELDS, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS02164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770108-1260
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977035/aaaaaebw.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 951a7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TUNIS 2107, 77 TUNIS 2108
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3078944
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN WARNING ON DEVELOPMENT OF ISIS OIL FIELD: U.S. INTEREST CONFIRMED
TAGS: PLOS, ENRG, TS, LY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/951a7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009